

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 /139 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 974

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT ETRD PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN GATT ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE DOCUMENT 76-30, JUNE 24, 1976

1. ON JUNE 29 WE PRESENTED US REQUEST LIST ATTACHED ABOVE REFERENCED DOCUMENT TO PARAGUAYAN TEAM AND NOTED THAT US REQUESTING IN EACH CASE CONSOLIDATION OF THE THREE EXISTING DUTIES ON EACH ITEM. WE NOTED US URGED EMBARK ON THIS CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM OVERALL AS MEANS SIMPLIFY AND RATIONALIZE THEIR TRADE REGEIME. WE EMPHASIZED THAT US REQUEST LIST HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT PARAGUAY'S STATUS AS DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

2. PARAGUAYANS ELECTED TO MAKE THEIR REACTION TO OUR REQUEST LIST KNOWN THROUGH US EMBASSY IN ASUNCION AFTER THEY HAVE HAD TIME FOR REFLECTION. (ASSUME COPY OF TPSC 76-30 HAS BEEN POUCHED ASUNCION.)

3. PARAGUAYANS SAID THEY INDEED HAVE EMBARKED ON ROLE
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OF CONSOLIDATING DUTIES INTO A UNITARY DUTY OVERALL BUT

ARE MEETING DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE (A) PARAGUAYAN TARIFF STILL CONTAINS SPECIFIC DUTIES WHICH HAVE TO BE CONVERTED TO AD VALOREM BASIS, (B) THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES AMONG THEIR STATISTICS, AND (C) IMPORT DUTIES IN PARAGUAY ARE MAJOR SOURCE OF REVENUE. NONETHELESS, THEY ASSURED US THEY INTERESTED IN TAKING THE CONSOLIDATION STEP. THEY ADDED THAT BRUSSELS DEFINITION OF VALUE BEING USED IN PARAGUAY FOR IMPORT PRICING.

4. PARAGUAYANS SAID MTN PARTICIPATION NOT TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE AT THIS MOMENT DUE TO PERSONNEL LIMITS. WE NOTED THAT SHOULD PARAGUAY EVENTUALLY ACCEDE TO THE GATT, IT COULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE BENEFITS OF PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH AS KR BINDINGS, AS WELL AS THOSE TO BE NEGOTIATED DURING CURRENT MTN.

5. PARAGUAYANS SAID THEY FOR MOMENT UNCERTAIN OF TIMING OF FINAL ACCESSION TO GATT. ONE MEMBER OF PARAGUAYAN DEL MENTIONED PRIVATELY THAT THEY MAY CONSIDER DOING AS COLOMBIA, I.E. ACCEDE PROVISIONALLY TO GATT FOR THE TIME BEING .

6. AS FINAL OBSERVATION ON US TARIFF REQUEST LIST, PARAGUAYANS SAID THEY HAD JUST BEEN ADMITTED TO INTRA-LDC TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE 15 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES HAD, IN VIEW OF PARAGUAY'S LEAST-DEVELOPED STATUS, NOT REQUIRED ANY CONCESSIONS FROM THEM. ALSO OF INTEREST WAS PARAGUAYAN COMMENT THAT THEY HAD REGIONAL COOPERATION, WHICH ORIGINATED THROUGH SHARED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. PURPOSE OF COOPERATION PRESUMABLY IS TO IMPROVE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES' PARTICIPATION IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS.ABRAMS

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